

## Reye Syndrome (RS)

Reye Syndrome (RS) is a collection of specific symptoms and signs rather than a single disease. It may occur shortly after a viral illness such as influenza or chickenpox, when the child seems to be recovering. RS usually occurs in younger children, but it can also affect teenagers, and sometimes adults. RS is not contagious. This illness can be fatal.

**CAUSE:** Unknown; a combination of factors have been suggested. Studies have shown a connection between Reye syndrome and the use of aspirin for viral illnesses such as influenza or chickenpox

**SYMPTOMS:** Persistent vomiting, extreme sleepiness, confusion, hostility, combativeness; coma may follow

**TRANSMISSION:** None.

**CONTAGIOUS PERIOD:** None.



Until child is well enough to participate in normal daily activities.

**EXCLUSION**

**Prevention & Control**



**DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN TO A CHILD WITH A VIRAL ILLNESS (SUCH AS CHICKENPOX AND INFLUENZA)**

1. Instruct children and teenagers to ask a parent/guardian before taking any medication.
2. \*If any of the above symptoms occur, call your physician or an emergency room immediately, fast action is necessary\*
3. Tell your health care provider if the child has taken any medications.
4. Treatment: Hospitalization is necessary because of the seriousness of this syndrome.

For more information, you or your physician may call the Central District Health Department at 385-5175, or your local health department.